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Alpena resident takes first step toward appointment to Waterways Commission

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Lansing – Alpena resident Janet Mansfield was unanimously confirmed today by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources for appointment to the Michigan Waterways Commission, Sen. Tony Stamas (R-36th District) announced.

Mansfield was one of three people chosen by the governor to serve on the commission, which advises the state Department of Natural Resources on acquiring, constructing and maintaining harbors, channels and facilities for boating and other water-related issues.

"I am very pleased for this appointment and will do my best to serve the state of Michigan in this capacity," Mansfield said. "There are many important issues that need to be examined and I look forward to getting started."

The appointees are subject to the Senate's advice and consent process, which runs through the Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

Normally, Stamas does not serve on the panel. He was temporarily assigned to replace Sen. Shirley Johnson (R-Royal Oak) who could not attend the meeting. Stamas asked to be assigned to the committee because Mansfield's appointment was being considered.

"I know how critical it is that Northeastern Michigan have a voice on this important panel, it has been too long since we have," Stamas said. "Janet's qualifications and experience speak for themselves. I just wanted to make sure the process went smoothly, which it did. It is exciting to have Janet one step closer to being appointed to the commission and I look forward to working with her."

Mansfield has been active in the United States Power Squadron, mastering Celestial Navigation. She is a member of the Alpena Coast Guard Auxiliary and is past commodore of the Alpena Yacht Club, as well as being a life member of the Thunderbay Island Lighthouse Preservation Society.

The appointees are expected to be confirmed by the Senate Government Operations Committee and the full Senate next week.

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Editor's note: A photo of Sen. Stamas and Janet Mansfield is available for download on the Senate Majority Photowire at: http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Stamas/Stamas.htm.